

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced the passage Thursday on the House floor of funding for transportation and other projects.

H.R. 3238, the Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, includes \$1.2 million for Stinson Municipal Airport; \$550,000 for VIA Metropolitan Transit and \$250,000 for the City of Hondo for a battered women's shelter.

"The funding in this bill will enhance our transportation infrastructure and provide a safe place for families in need to seek help," said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. "I am glad these worthy projects have been funded through the House process."

Congressman John Olver, Chairman of the THUD Appropriations Committee, said Congressman Rodriguez is an active subcommittee member who played an important role in the formation of the bill.

"He has been a strong advocate of high speed rail, and, in part, because of his support, the bill contains an historic investment in rail that will greatly improve this country's public transportation in the future," Olver said. "Throughout this process, I have genuinely appreciated Mr. Rodriguez's observations and valued his contributions."

The Stinson funding goes towards the Runway Infrastructure Improvement Project to enhance and renovate critical airport facilities, including the repaving of a runway and replacement of airfield signage and lighting.

The \$550,000 for VIA Metropolitan Transit will go towards the completion of another phase of a federally authorized transportation program, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act to improve passenger mobility and decrease traffic congestion in San Antonio.

“We want to extend our deepest appreciation to Congressman Rodriguez for his efforts in securing federal funding for VIA’s Bus Rapid Transit project,” said VIA Vice President of Public Affairs Priscilla Ingle. “This funding will allow us to enhance our service using new and improved technologies that will benefit our passengers and the community as a whole.”

Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20), who requested the VIA funding with Congressman Rodriguez said “VIA has been providing public transportation service in the San Antonio area since 1978, and continues to be an integral part of our community’s smart growth plan. I’m proud that these resources will help provide a valuable public service to the community, while giving a boost to our city’s economy.”

Also included in the bill was House-approved funding in the amount of \$250,000 to build a battered women’s shelter in Hondo. Hondo Mayor Jim Danner said the construction of a building for the South Texas Family Life Center will benefit families in Medina, Frio and Uvalde counties.

“The present facilities are deteriorated and do not provide an acceptable environment for families,” Danner said. “We are very grateful to Congressman Rodriguez for his leadership in recognizing and prioritizing this very worthwhile, needed project.”